

## Message Text

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FOLLOWING REPEAT COLOMBO 2407 ACTION SECSTATE INFO DACCA

ISLAMABAD LONDON NEW DELHI DATED 4 AUG 75

QUOTE

UNCLAS COLOMBO 2407

EO 11652:N/A

TAGS: MARR, CE, US, XO

SUBJ: EDITORIAL ON DIEGO GARCIA EXPANSION PLANS

REF: COLOMBO 2389

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF EDITORIAL (UNNECESSARY WORDS  
OMITTED) IN GOVT-CONTROLLED CEYLON DAILY NEWS  
OF AUG 4 UNDER TITLE OF "SETBACK TO PEACE ZONE":  
"DECISION TO EXPAND NAVAL STATION ON BRITISH  
OWNED ISLAND OF DIEGO GARCIA IN INDIAN OCEA, WHICH  
US SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TOOK LAST  
WEEK, CAN ONLY BE DESCRIBED AS ACT OF INDESCRIBABLE  
NAIVETE, IF FOLLY IS TOO HARSH WORD. IT SEEMS AS  
THOUGH VIETNAM WAR ENDED AEONS AGO RATHER THAN  
COUPLE OF MONTHS BACK. US SENATE AND HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES SEEM TO BE MOVED MORE BY SPIRIT  
OF MAYAGUEZ THAN BY GLOW OF WISDOM WHICH PERSUADED  
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THIS GREAT POWER TO WITHDRAW TROOPS FROM VIETNAM.

IN WHAT OTHER WAY CAN DECISION TO ARM ANOTHER  
BASE IN INDIAN OCEAN BE EXPLAINED THAN FROM  
VIEWPOINT THAT OUR MEMORY IS SO TRAGICALLY  
SHORT THAT HUMANITY IS REPEATEDLY BEING LED INTO  
FOLLIES BY SOME STRANGE HAND OF FATE?

"IT IS NOT, OF COURSE, SITUATION WHICH ANY  
OF LITTORAL STATES IN INDIAN OCEAN CAN CONTEMPLATE  
STOICALLY. IT IS NANIMOUS VIEW OF THESE COUNTRIES  
THAT WE SHOULD BE LEFT IN PEACE. ENOUGH HAS  
HAPPENED IN PAST TO WARN US THAT STRANGE DESIRES  
AND ADVENTURES WHICH BESET WESTERN NATIONS FROM  
TIME TO TIME HAVE ENDED FINALLY IN DESTRUCTION OF  
WHOLE CULTURES, THEIR WAYS OF LIFE AND EVEN IN  
LOSS OF CHERISHED FREEDOMS. PITY IS THAT WHEN  
BIG POWERS CAST THEIR EYES IN DIRECTION OF  
INDIAN OCEAN THEY DONOT SEE PEOPLE OR PRINCIPLES --  
ONLY POWER VACUUM. POWER VACUUM HAS BEEN IRRESISTIBLE  
ATTRACTION TO WESTERNERS, THAN EVEN OUR FAMED SPICES  
AND PRECIOUS STONES.

"EACH OF THEM IN THEIR HEYDAY HAS CONCEIVED  
HIS ROLE AS ONE OF POLICING AREA, WHICH REALLY  
MEANT KEEPING OUT INTRUDER FROM SELF-PROCLAIMED  
PRESERVES. AS HISTORY HAS AMPLY SHOWN ROLES HAVE  
BEEN ILL-STARRED. LAST POLICEMAN, WHO THOUGHT AT  
ONE TIME THAT SUN WOULD NEVER SET ON HIS EMPIRE, HAS  
RETIRED FROM JOB AND IS NOW GREATLY OUT OF POCKET  
FOR HIS TROUBLES. NOT ONE  
OF THESE GLARING EXAMPLES  
APPEAR TO HAVE DAUNTED US SENATE. EVEN EFFORTS  
OF 18-NATION UN COMMITTEE TO PERSUADE BIG POWERS  
TO ATTEND CONFERENCE WHERE THEY COULD DISCUSS  
MEASURES TO KEEP INDIAN OCEAN ZONE OF PEACE HAVE  
BEEN FRUITLESS. WHAT IS WORSE IS NONE OF  
BIG POWERS, ACCORDING TO MR SHIRLEY AMERASINGHE,  
CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE, HAS ACCEPTED INVITATION TO  
ATTEND CONFERENCE.

"THEIR SCANT REGARD FOR CONCERN OF SMALLER  
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NATIONS LEAVES THEM IN GREAT FRUSTRATION, UNSURE  
OF ROLE OF BIG POWERS OR THEIR PROMISES TO MAKE  
WORLD MORE SECURE. WHEN FOREIGN MINISTER OF  
NON-ALIGNED GROUP MEET IN LIMA THIS MONTH THEY  
WILL HAVE, AS MAJOR WORRY, STEPS THEY SHOULD TAKE  
TO PERSUADE BIG POWERS TO ATTEND UN COMMITTEE  
DISCUSSIONS. MEANWHILE, "FIRST ACT OF SCENARIO  
IDENTICAL TO THAT WHICH TOOK US INTO THE QUAGMIRE",

HAS BEEN PERFORMED. WORDS ARE THAT  
OF SENATOR JOHN CULVER WHO USED THEM TO DESCRIBE  
AMERICAN DECISION TO VOTE NEARLY 32 MILLION  
DOLLARS FOR RENOVATING NAVAL BASE AT DIEGO GARCIA.  
THOUGH THIS IS GREAT SETBACK TO HOPES AND ASPIRATIONS  
OF LITTORAL STATES IN INDIAN OCEAN, THEY WILL  
CONTINUE TO PURSUE WAYS IN WHICH BIG POWERS CAN  
BE RECALLED TO SOBRIETY."

2. COMMENT FOLLOWS BY SEPTTEL.

VAN HOLLEN  
UNQUOTE  
KISSINGER

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